BLACKTHORNE
INCORPORATED
PUBLISHING
NO. 1
$2.50 U.S.
$3.50 CANADA
RED SONJA
™
3-D
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THE SLAUGHTERED PIG.
A POPULAR TAVERN IN THE CITY OF RAZADAN.
BUT THEN, ANY TAVERN IS POPULAR IN RAZADAN.
SEVEN FOR BRUK OF BALKHANA!
A GOLD PIECE ON BRUK!
TWO GOLD PIECES!
AND SEVEN IT IS FOR BRUK OF BALKHANA!

THE SLAUGHTERED PIG IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT RAZADAN FOR ITS VERMINOUS ACCOMODATIONS-
-ITS PARTICULARLY NAUSEATING FOOD-
-AND ITS EXCEPTIONALLY DISREPUTABLE CLIENTELE.
IT IS DIFFICULT TO FINGER THE CULPRIT OF A CRIME IN SUCH A SETTING.
IN THIS INSTANCE, IT WILL BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE
THIS THIEF IS SKILLED...
...AND BEAUTY IS RARELY SUSPECT.

RARELY SUSPECT...
LATER, SHE APPRAISES HER EVENING'S WORK.
LIKE STEALING FROM BLIND BABIES. NO ONE SAW HER.
THEN AGAIN...

ROBERT E. HOWARD'S
RED SONJA
TM

KATURA! NUSAIR! CEASE FIGHTING!
LET US CONTINUE OUR "TALK" WHERE WE HAVE MORE ROOM, EH?

RED-HAIRED BEAUTY, WE DO NOT WISH TO FIGHT YOU!
AYE? WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU IN MIND, BURSTING IN ON ME WITH DRAWN STEEL?
A DANCE, PERHAPS?
WHAT BETTER WAY FOR US TO TEST YOUR SKILLS, TIGRESS?
THE GUILD MASTER WILL BE PLEASED!
GUILD MASTER?
RAZADAN'S LORD OF THIEVES,
HE WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
BUT I UH..!!
GIFTED WITH THE SWORD, BUT YOUNG, VERY YOUNG...
...VERY STUPID.

LATER..
I SHALL BE LENIENT AND EXPLAIN YOUR TRANSGRESSION, LEST YOU BE TEMPTED TO OVERSTEP YOUR BOUNDARIES IN THE FUTURE.
NO THIEF SHALL PLY HIS TRADE IN MY CITY WITHOUT MY LEAVE. THI GUILD IS RUN BY RULES.
MY RULES.
THEREFORE, YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS.
ONE. CONTINUE YOUR ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER OF THIEVES' GUILD...
..OR TWO DIE.
WELL?

YOUTH IS A TIME OF FOLLY FOR SOME
RECKLESSNESS FOR OTHERS
PERMISSION? FROM A GUILD THAT CANNOT KEEP ITS OWN STOLEN GOODS?
AND A GENEROUS DOSE OF BOTH FOR THOSE WHO LEARN ONLY FROM MISTAKES
MY RING! THE COW STOLE MY RING!
THAT IS MY PURSE! I STOLE IT YESTERDAY
ENOUGH!
TAKE HER!

LET ME GO
SIR CAN WE NOT USE THIS PRINCESS FOR SOME PURPOSE OTHER THAN A SACRIFICE TO BEL
THE GOD OF THIEVES JOHN
THERE ARE CERTAIN ASSIGNMENTS THAT SERVE A DOUBLE PURPOSE
YES YES THERE ARE
EXCELLENT DULKAN
YOUR LIFE SHALL BE SPARED YOUNG FURY TO PERFORM A TASK FOR ME
PERFORM IT WELL AND YOU MAY LIVE
PERHAPS

LET US SEE HOW YOU LOOK IN THIS!
WHAT IS THIS?
THINK OF IT AS A UNIFORM. YOU ARE NOW A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
THE GUILD'S FORTUNE
DISGUISED AS A MAID YOU WILL STEAL THE NUPTIAL JEWELS OF PRINCESS ARA SELLI AND BRING THEM TO ME
IF YOU FAIL YOU WILL DIE

GO AHEAD TRY IT ON
TIGRESS
HERE?
HERE
SATISFIED

DJURAN AND NUSAIR WILL ESCORT YOU TO SELL'S PALACE
OH AND DON'T THINK OF ESCAPE FROM HERE OR THE PALACE
THIS IS NO ASSIGNMENT TIGRESS
THIS IS YOUR DEATH SENTENCE
SHE WON'T SUCCEED EVEN IF SHE BRINGS THE JEWELS BACK SHE DIES

THE PALACE OF KING SELLI OF RAJADAN
THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE NEW SERVING MAID
MY HAIR MY HAIR! WHAT SHALL I DO?!
SERVANT! SERVANT I SAY
YOU!
DO NOT STAND AS ONE WITH NO WITS ABOUT HER ATTEND ME!
YOUR HIGHNESS KNOWS I AM BUT A LOWLY DRUDGE
NO LONGER! YOU'LL DO MY HAIR OR HAVE YOUR HEAD WRUNG FROM YOUR SCRAWNY NECK!
LOCATING HIDDEN JEWELS WHILE RESTRICTED TO THE KITCHEN HAS BEEN A FRUSTRATING TASK
HER WILD ARM[illegible] BLESSING

AND SONJA IS QUICK TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY
VE MADE IT TO THE STRUMPET'S CHAMBER!
NOW WHERE MIGHT THOSE JEWELS BE HIDDEN?
A HAAAA

ACCEPTABLE
YOU MAY BEGIN BY PUTTING AWAY MY THINGS
TARIM! WHAT GOOD FORTUNE
BEFORE THE ARROGANT BRAT CHANGES HER MIND

SIMPLE ENOUGH
THE GUILD MASTER KNOWS NOT WHAT I DO IN THE PALACE!
NOW THAT I HAVE FOUND THE JEWELS
I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE
SO WAS RIGHT

WAIT! OR I SHALL SUMMON THE GUARDS!
WHY NOT SUMMON THEM NOW?
YOU DID NOT SEEM LIKE A KITCHEN DRUDGE WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU TOO PROUD TOO IN DEPENDENT!
YOU PERFORM A TASK FOR ME
YOU SOLVED MY PUZZLE QUICKLY! BUT YOU MAY HAVE MORE THAN MERE JEWELS IF
SUSPECTED YOU WERE AFTER MY JEWELS AND

THE WORDS ARE FAMILIAR
TOO FAMILIAR
WHAT TASK MIGHT THIS BE?
PUT AN END TO A MAN FOR ME
AM NO MURDERER FOR HIRE
SHHHH!
YOU SHALL NOT TAKE HIS LIFE BUT HIS REPUTATION! TO MY FATHER THE KING THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
THE TARGET IS MY BETROTHED WHOM I DESPISE!
THERE IS A FEAST IN HIS HONOR TOMORROW DURING WHICH YOU WILL PLANT ON HIM THE JEWELS YOU INTENDED TO STEAL!
I SHALL DISCOVER THEM IN HIS POSSESSION AND EXPOSE HIM! AND THAT WILL BE THAT!

AND WHAT OF ME?
YOU WILL GO YOUR WAY WITH A HEAVY PURSE
YOU HAVE MY WORD
AND SO THE EVENING OF THE FEAST ARRIVES
THE REVELRIE FINDS KING SELL FLANKED BY HIS CONNIVING DAUGHTERS

THE SERVANTS ARE BUSY ATTENDING TO SUCH A VORACIOUS CROWD
AHA! A TH... YOU WENCH!
AS I WAS SAYING, YOUR MAJESTY
I AM MOST FLATTERED AND DELIGHTED
EH? WHAT'S THIS?
THIS RING! WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
RING
WHERE.
WHAT?
BUT THIS IS NOT MINE!

INDEED IT IS NOT!
ARA!
FATHER! ONE OF MY NUPTIAL JEWELS
BUT BUT
OH TARIM
SO! IT TAKES A FEAST IN YOUR HONOR TO EXPOSE YOUR DISHONOR!!
I WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH INSOLENCE!
NOR SHALL YOU LEAVE MY PALACE WITH YOUR TWO HANDS ATTACHED TO YOUR ARMS
ARRRGG!

FOR SOME THE EXCITEMENT IS OVER AND IT IS TIME TO LEAVE
FOR OTHERS IT HAS JUST BEGUN!
KEVAR!!
FATHER KEVAR IS NO THEF!
SHE PLANTED THE JEWELS! I SAW HER
STOP HER! SHE S A THIEF!

WHILE SKILL PROVIDES THE THIEF WITH BREAD, LUCK KEEPS HIM ALIVE.
BUT WHEN LUCK DENIES HER FAVORS, AUDACITY MUST SUFFICE!
I'LL HANG THAT SCHEMING DOG OF A PRINCESS BY HER HAIR!
BUT FIRST, I HAVE TO ESCAPE!

A THIEF, ARE YOU!
TRY YOUR CLEVERNESS AGAINST MY BLADE!
OH, KEVAR!
SHUT UP, ROYAL SOW!

I'LL TAKE THAT RING, IF YOU PLEASE!
YOU DARE..!
BY TARIM, I DO DARE!
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

THE THIEF FLIES FROM HER ENEMIES!

THE CRIMSON-MANED TIGRESS WAS SEEN NO MORE IN RAZADAN. THOUGH MANY SEARCHED FOR HER.

STILL OTHERS OWED HER A GREAT DEBT.

OTHERS WERE FOREVER HAUNTED BY HER BEAUTY.

SOME COULD NOT FORGET HER AMAZING SKILLS.

SUCH IS THE LIFE OF A THIEF.
The End